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# FSEC Minutes December 2, 2015

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting #17  
December 2, 2015**

**MINUTES**

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:40 PM on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 in the President's Conference Room, Vice Chairperson Welters presiding. Senators Kusz, Rarick, Sullivan, and Tsiatas were present. Chairperson Rollo-Koster was absent.
2. President Dooley was welcomed to the meeting and the following matters were discussed:
  - a. The President was asked to provide the Committee with an update on progress to improve operations in Human Resources particularly pertaining to faculty searches. The President said that he had met with Vice President Valentino and Associate Vice President Thompson and, subsequently, with the college deans. Deans were informed of improvements to the search and job posting approval process and asked to update their chairs. Changes have resolved the backlog of searches to be posted. Vice President Valentino has been asked to follow up with the Provost to ensure that issues remain addressed.
  - b. The President was asked to provide the Committee with an update on progress to solve the many problems with classroom technology, SAKAI, and e-campus reported by faculty earlier in the semester. The President said that he has asked the Provost to address the problems.
  - c. Vice Chairperson Welters asked the President to provide an update on capital developments. The President said that URI is advocating that Phase 2 of the College of Engineering and renovation of the Fine Arts Center be included in the Governor's budget. Discussion followed about the practice of requesting approval from voters for specific projects with every election cycle. The President Indicated that the state may consider other, more comprehensive, approaches.

In response to an inquiry, the President reported on the status of plans to develop a hotel with conference space, retail space, and housing on Upper College Road between Fortin and Bliss Roads. The next step is the RFP to solicit developers; the hotel would be privately owned and managed. The University would provide the land; the developers would build the facilities at their expense. Discussion

followed about the potential for developing a program in Hospitality Management.

The President summarized other capital projects in the planning stages: rehabilitation of Davis, Ranger, East, Washburn, Carlotti, Quinn, and Roosevelt; and a new master for the Bay Campus and the Graduate School of Oceanography. He said that there are plans for additional student housing. He reported that the University could not accommodate 1000 students this year who wanted to live on campus.

- d. The President was asked to provide an update regarding the campus police force. The President said that, under the leadership of Police Major Jagoda, a new substation has been established in Freshman Village (Barlow), bike patrols have been re-instituted (weather permitting), and that officers are required to spend part of their shift interacting with students. Regarding firearms certification, he indicated that the URI force would be re-certified twice a year (the requirement is annual re-certification). Senator Sullivan suggested that the institution consider providing financial support to the force to allow practice at nearby firing ranges. Senator Kusz suggested that, if there were an opportunity to invite a guest speaker to address community policing, he would recommend the Co-founder and President of the Center for Policing Equity at UCLA, Dr. Philip Atiba Goff. The President was amenable to the suggestion.

The President left the meeting at 3:40 PM.

- 3. Minutes of FSEC Meeting #16, November 18, 2015 were approved as amended.

#### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

- a. Ms. Neff reported that, after the report at the November 19 Faculty Senate Meeting of the results of the Referendum on Changes to the Constitution of the Faculty Senate, she had been contacted by faculty who reported to have not received the electronic ballot. After review of the process of administering the ballot, it was determined that ten Associate Deans, members of the General Faculty, had been inadvertently omitted from the distribution. The ballot was distributed to the Associate Deans on November 30 and would remain open until December 4. These additional votes would be added to those collected between October 20 and October 30.

#### **5. ONGOING BUSINESS**

- a. The FSEC reviewed a draft of the Policy for the Administration of Grants, Contracts and Gifts with revisions submitted by the Vice President Sonnenfeld. The FSEC

asked Ms. Neff to solicit feedback on the revisions from officers at the URI Foundation.

- b.** Vice Chairperson Welters, who also serves as Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Academic Planning, indicated that a committee of faculty and staff had been formed to plan the annual Academic Summit (January 22, 2016). The theme for this year's event is Big Innovative Ideas for the University's Future: Teaching and Learning, Research, Scholarly and Creative Work. The FSEC discussed the event format and potential keynote presenters from among the URI faculty.
- c.** The FSEC discussed the need to meet with the General Education Implementation Steering Team (GEIST) before the end of December when GEIST is scheduled to end its work. Ms. Neff was asked to invite Director Swift and other GEIST members to the December 9 FSEC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Neff